

FIGHTING DISEASES AROUND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, yesterday 1,100 people in India died from tuberculosis. Last month in sub-Saharan Africa, 225,000 people died from AIDS. Last year, more than 1 million people died from malaria around the world.

The White House understands that AIDS, in tandem with tuberculosis, is literally the most devastating epidemic the world has seen since the bubonic plague of the 14th century. These diseases have killed millions. They have their sights set on millions more.

The President laid out the problem well: nearly 30 million people have the AIDS virus in Africa; yet only 50,000 of them are receiving the medicine they need. The great Black Plague of Europe killed 25 million people in the mid-1300s. Last year, there were an estimated 42 million people living with HIV-AIDS around the world. There is little question that HIV, unless we take unprecedented, dramatic action to both prevent further spread and treat all those who require treatment with antiretrovirals and other medicines, will take a much greater social, political and economic toll than even the black plague.

For the first time, the United States is devoting the necessary funding and joining the global fight against these three killers. The President has committed the funding, \$10 billion in new money, to stem the growing tide of this epidemic; but we are not quite there.

The limited number of targeted countries under the President's initiative and the small contribution to the global fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, \$1 billion of the \$10 billion, has stifled the applause that followed the President's announcement about how this administration would fight AIDS.

The President is aiming at only 14 countries, 12 in sub-Saharan Africa where the devastation is greatest, and two in our hemisphere, Haiti and Guyana. The White House plan excludes Mexico, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, India, Russia and Brazil where half the world's people live. It excludes 15 of the 22 high-burden TB countries which account for 80 percent of the world's TB population. If the administration is committed to addressing AIDS, it must also be committed to TB, the biggest killer of people with AIDS. We cannot fight one without fighting the other.

Dr. Richard Feachem, executive director of the Global Fund, told me last week that a go-it-alone bilateral plan simply will not work. While economist and AIDS expert Jeffrey Sachs acknowledges the significance of the President's plan, he questioned the decision to limit support for the Global Fund. "What has not worked is each individual donor planting a separate

flag," and trying to solve the problem alone, he said.

The Global Fund is a public-private partnership begun last year by U.N. General Secretary Kofi Annan, which draws contributions from governments, private corporations, faith-based organizations and foundations. The Global Fund already shows signs that it works. Government entities, in coordination with nongovernment organizations, submit 5-year plans. Each plan is unique to each country, not a one-size-fits-all design which traditional foreign aid programs have too often been.

The Global Fund recognizes cultural differences. What works in Christian Uruguay might not work in Moslem Bangladesh. No overriding, international political agenda is attached to the Global Fund's assistance. No litmus tests, only a judgment by the fund in collaboration with local citizens and health workers of what works best in each country.

The Global Fund demands quantifiable results. The money supports activities, including access to health care services and purchase of drugs. If a country or an NGO fails to show results within 2 years, the money is cut off. Although 60 percent of the Global Fund's money goes to HIV-AIDS, 20 percent goes to TB and another 20 percent roughly to fight malaria. Fighting these diseases together is a cost-effective approach. For example, the infrastructure created in the treatment of TB has been proven to help in the treatment of AIDS, malaria and other diseases. To cure TB, a patient takes medication every day for about 6 months given to him by a health care worker at a clinic or by a health care worker who has traveled to his home. Unlike a smallpox vaccine, regular interaction between health care workers and patients is necessary to cure TB.

If we fully commit to the Global Fund, that means a minimum of \$500 million per year, 2 million patients will be treated for TB over the next 5 years, most of them for less than \$100. Our investment in the Global Fund, rather than a unilateral U.S.-waged effort, will help leverage support from other countries.

Funneling U.S. dollars through U.S. programs alone will not do much to promote a united global front against this global killer. In a very short time, the Global Fund has shown it is capable of tremendous progress. In the first two rounds of grants, the fund has approved 160 proposals in 85 low-income countries.

With significant U.S. funding, the fund will continue to support countries committed to addressing the epidemics killing their people. Without U.S. leadership, it will be a fund in name only and AIDS, TB, and malaria will remain a virtual death sentence in the developing world.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to congratulate the University of Florida on its 150th year in operation and of course to wish them continued success. It is a great privilege to represent such a fine university. I am proud to say that the University of Florida ranks fourth in the Nation among public universities and 10th among all universities in the number of freshman National Merit Scholars in attendance.

Not only do I have the privilege of representing the university, but also the city in which the university was formed, which also happens to be very close to my hometown. In 1853, the University of Florida began as East Florida Seminary in Ocala, Florida. It was created in response to a State decision which allowed public funds to be used to support higher education. It later combined with Florida Agriculture College, St. Petersburg Normal and Industrial School, and South Florida Military College to become the University of the State of Florida, one of four State universities.

Having been formed before the Civil War, the University of Florida has been a profound player in both Florida and American history. In fact, in World War I, the university served as a base for 400 soldiers. These student soldiers were displaced to local boarding houses as sentries to guard the gates and dormitories on campus.

In the mid-1920s, the State of Florida and the university suffered financial difficulties, along with the rest of the country. The Mediterranean fruit fly crippled the State's citrus production, and the deadliest hurricane to ever hit Florida destroyed what was left of the State's economy. Then a year later, the Great Depression began for the collapse of the stock market. State funds for expansion were virtually nonexistent for nearly 20 years thereafter.

In the Second World War, more than 10,000 UF alumni served this country. William Corry and Hubert Schuch, former student body presidents, were among those killed.

□ 1245

The University of Florida has a rich State and national history and it thrives today as one of the premier State universities in the United States. University of Florida students are among the most active in this Nation. With a 46,500-plus student enrollment and 2,000-acre campus, the campus is a lively and stimulating environment for all of its students.

Students at the university lead a rich social and academic life, which is evidenced by the fact that in a single year there are more than 600 student organizations operating on campus and more

than 2,000 campus concerts, art exhibits, theatrical productions, guest lectures, sports concerts and other events in a year.

With an athletics program rivaled by few Division I-A schools, the University of Florida fields some of the most competitive teams in the country. UF scholar-athletes have dominated in every sporting arena, and it is evident from their dozens of national titles. I am proud of the University of Florida's athletic program and foresee continued success.

I also want to congratulate the University of Florida football team for an admirable season. Gator fans across the country should be excited for this program and their new coach, Ron Zook. Coach Zook has put together an outstanding staff, and I look forward to seeing them back on top of the SEC.

Academic institutions shoulder a great responsibility in the health and progress of local communities. They not only teach young people skills in order to succeed, but also intangible advantages like broad-mindedness and a sense of the world around them. Education is our best defense against hatred and poverty, which is why we must invest in institutions that have a proven record of success.

As any Member of this body would be, I am proud to represent one such institution. I congratulate the University of Florida and President Charles Young and wish the university long-lasting success. God bless.

CONGRATULATING MILWAUKIE, OREGON, ON ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BALLENGER). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, amidst all the international drama and trauma, it is sometimes easy to forget that the primary goal of government is to provide a partnership where our communities can be livable and where our families are safe, healthy and economically secure. My hometown of Portland, Oregon, has received international acclaim as one of America's most livable cities, but actually, Mr. Speaker, ours is a region of two dozen livable communities. Under Oregon's unique land use system, each community is encouraged to develop its own special identity.

One of the unique places that deserves special attention is the city of Milwaukie, Oregon, as it now celebrates its centennial this month, an example that thousands of small communities across the country could look to. Milwaukie's hard-working citizens are keenly interested in making the next 100 years something that is even better.

The community of Milwaukie has played a key role in the history of our

State. The city was actually settled in 1840 and played a critical role in shipping up and down the Willamette River. The commerce from those docks served to link Willamette Valley's pioneers with goods from the Hudson's Bay Trading Company and beyond. Oregon's founder, Dr. John McLaughlin, often supervised commerce on those very docks when he visited from his nearby home. Today, Milwaukie is the second largest city in fast-growing Clackamas County. It serves the Portland region as a transportation hub, hosting the intersection of two State highways and two freight railroads. But it is how Milwaukie has approached the future that is intriguing to me.

In the latter part of the 1990s, this city looked at how they were going to join the region's light rail system. Some had serious questions about what it would do to their community and how it was going to be compatible with how they wanted to grow with the rest of the region. Instead of joining the region's light rail system at that point, they took time out to reflect how they should grow and relate to the surrounding communities. In the course of the next 5 years, the community carried out literally thousands of hours of community meetings. Some were informal. There were scores of neighborhood association meetings and workshops.

As a result of this searching and introspection, the community, its neighborhoods and elected leaders, including some who were the most skeptical of earlier plans, are now among the most active and aggressive advocates of rail coming to their town; and not only light rail, but they are also supporting an innovative commuter rail system serving Milwaukie, as well. They are looking at other ways to make their community livable.

Milwaukie, Oregon, like so many communities across the country, made decisions early in its career that cut off its waterfront from the community. It is inaccessible now because of a State highway that makes pedestrian and other access impossible. This beautiful and historic resource is now out of their reach, home only to a treatment plant. Milwaukie residents are now working to overcome this barrier to connect their historic waterfront and natural resource with the heart of their downtown.

Milwaukie, Oregon is an outstanding example of how a livable community grapples with issues of growth, transportation, development, its past and its future. It is a community that other cities can look to for inspiration, how people of strong and varying opinions sitting down and working through their issues together for the common good can make a city safer, healthier and more economically secure.

I, for one, am proud to represent the "City of Dogwoods" as it celebrates its centennial. Congratulations, Milwaukie, Oregon.

CONGRATULATING THE M. ENSEMBLE COMPANY FOR ITS UPCOMING "MEDAL OF HONOR THEATER PROJECT"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the M. Ensemble Company for its upcoming "Medal of Honor Theater Project," which honors the life and service of the first black soldier ever awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism during the Vietnam War.

I would like to especially thank fellow Miamians Patricia E. Williams and Shirley Richardson who are cofounders of the M. Ensemble Company for all of their leadership and dedication to this praiseworthy organization. For more than 30 years, the theater company has been providing training and career-building opportunities for the south Florida community. This recognition is especially fitting as our country celebrates the countless African American contributions to our rich history.

Please join me in congratulating the M. Ensemble Company and its Medal of Honor project for its tremendous tribute to the cause of arts and learning for all.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OTTER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

O powerful and ever-living God, the lasting health of all who believe in You, hear our prayer on this World Day for the Sick.

In accepting our sufferings and our human limitations, Lord, You teach us the virtue of patience. We offer our prayers for our sick brothers and sisters, especially those who are near and dear to the Members of Congress.

On this special day we give You thanks for all those in health care ministry on every continent. Continue to call forth men and women of science and faith who will serve the weakest members of society as professionals in research, in medicine, and in health care. Sustain them and guide them